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1.

Situation of Musicians

2.

"Musicians in Bulgaria, as well as artists and writers, belong now to a financially privileged class. They are divided into seven wage categories. Members of first, or highest category get 40.66 (new) leva per day or 1160 leva per month. Only three musicians in the whole of Bulgaria belong to this category. A musician of the lowest (seventh) category receives 580 leva per month.

3.

"All musicians belong to a trade union, which comprises also actors, painters, sculptors, writers and movie employees. The employer and the real boss of musicians is the K. N. I. K. Komisija Nauki, Sztuki i Kultury (Commission of Education, Art and Culture). The KNIK controls and regulates wages, work conditions and artistic output. The active Communists are, of course, favored. They receive all titles and premiums. However, any high class musician is well treated if he shows no anti-regime feelings.

4.

"Exploitation of the last category of musicians (i.e. those who do not belong to the CP) has no limits. Take a musician of the first category. Apart from leading a city orchestra and playing each night at a Balkanturist establishment, for which he was paid, he was in addition musical inspector of the army collectives throughout Bulgaria and was compelled to give free piano and violin lessons to children of eminent Communists and high army officers. He had 35 such pupils. He was always told that his high salary behooved him to do something for the Party and the State, so he had to work as ordered. Those free lessons occupied his whole morning from eight to 12 and the afternoon from two to six. Shortly after six he would rehearse with the orchestra and then would play up to midnight and the early morning. He had no time for family life and hardly the time for sleep at night.

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2.

Music in the Army

5. The ~~former~~ names for units in the Bulgarian Army, such as: army, division regiment, etc. have been abolished. Instead all units from army to, say, regimental orchestra, have received the name Poddelenye, with a special number for each unit. These numbers are changed every three months.
6. "Pleven as of June 1953, was the headquarters of the General Staff of the 4th Bulgarian Army. (The 1st Army was stationed in Sofia, the 2nd at Plovdiv, the 3rd at Bliven.) Also stationed at Pleven were the following units: General Staff of a division, an infantry regiment, an artillery regiment, and an engineer regiment. The units stationed at Trnovo, Orehovo, and Svishtov were also subordinated to the 4th Army.
7. "Military units, probably, from regiments upwards have their own military bands. Each band consists of seven musicians, who only play military marches. These units also have troupes of artists, dramatic troupes, dance troupes and choirs. These groups are not formed into separate units, but the military bands are, and accordingly, they are called Poddelenye and have their own numbers.
8. "The Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Interior have large orchestras at their disposal. The orchestra of the Ministry of National Defense consists of about 60 men. Its leader is Col. Lieut. (fnu) Prokopiev, a Communist, former music teacher at one of the Sofia secondary schools (Gymnasium). He has no qualifications for such a post; the orchestra is actually led by one of the players, who graduated from the Music Academy in Sofia, and is a good orchestra leader. Not being a member of the Party he cannot be an orchestra leader officially. This orchestra is composed exclusively of men. Other representative troupes of the Ministry of National Defense, such as the dance troupes and, choir, are composed exclusively of men. The orchestra of the Ministry of Interior consists of 160 men. Its leader is Col. Lieut. Geniu Bonev, former band leader of the militia at Pleven. He is better qualified than Prokopiev. Apart from this orchestra the Ministry of Interior also has at its disposal representative dance troupes and a choir. Both the orchestra and the artists' troupes include women. These two representative orchestras have made a tour to the USSR, the Satellite countries and even to China."

-end-

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